

REMARKS

As a result of this Amendment, claims 1-4, 6-13, and 15-25 are pending. Specifically, claims 5 and 14 are cancelled, new claims 15-25 are added, and amendments are made to the remaining pending claims except for claims 4, 9 and 12.

By the Official Action, objection has been raised against claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 10, 11, 13 and 14 because of the phrases "clear hitting area" and "an open look". To overcome the objection, these phrases have been removed from the claims, and the phrase "gridless ball placement area" has been substituted for "clear hitting area", with support, for example, in Figs. 1 and 2 of the drawing, which show a gridless ball placement area. All main claims now specify the combination of a foot placement grid and a gridless ball placement area.

Also by the Official Action, all claims are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by McCrink, Jr. This rejection is respectfully traversed, particularly with respect to the amended claims presented herewith, and reconsideration and withdrawal are accordingly requested.

McCrink, as well as the Mason patent (directed to a pattern that may be laid flat on the ground; cited by the Examiner), lacks the combination of a foot placement grid and a gridless ball placement area, as required by all main claims. Also distinct from main claims 1 and 10 and dependent claim 7 (claim 7 depends from main claim 6), McCrink lacks a gridless ball placement area that provides separation between a first set of spaced apart ball position lines and a second set of spaced apart ball position lines, and lacks vertical alignment grid lines spaced further apart from one another than ball position lines of a first set of ball position lines are spaced apart from one another. Main claim 13 specifies the first of these additional distinctive features.

Also distinct from main claim 1 and dependent claim 7, McCrink lacks, as shown in Figs. 1 to 3, 5 and 6 of the inventive

drawing, a first set of ball position lines and a second set of ball position lines located between an edge of a golf mat and a horizontal line of a foot placement grid. Additionally distinct from main claims 10 and 13 and from dependent claims 17 (dependent from claim 1) and 19 (dependent from claim 6), McCrink lacks, as shown in Figs. 1 to 3, 5 and 6 of the inventive drawing, and described in part at page 9, lines 25-27 with respect to Figs. 1 and 2, ball position lines of a first set of ball position lines of less length than vertical alignment grid lines.

With respect to dependent claim 2 and main claim 6, McCrink lacks a first set of parallel line segments separated from a second set of parallel line segments by a gridless ball placement area, and lacks a first set of parallel line segments and a second set of parallel line segments located between an edge of a golf mat and a horizontal line of a foot placement grid and that cooperate to define a plurality of sight lines. Main claim 13 and dependent claim 11 specify the first of these additional distinctive features.

In addition with respect to dependent claims 3, 12 and 19, and main claim 13, McCrink lacks a plurality of sight lines defined by line segments and located substantially between a first set of ball position lines and a second set of ball position lines. Lines 36 and 66 (page 9, lines 23-24, and page 10, line 18) of the golf mat of Figs. 1 and 2 provide support for the language (added to dependent claims 3 and 8) "at least one additional sight line".

In addition, for example, McCrink lacks features of dependent claim 18 (dependent from main claim 1), of dependent claims 8 and 20 (dependent from main claim 6), of dependent claims 21, 22 and 23 (dependent from main claim 10), and of dependent claims 24 and 25 (dependent from main claim 13).

Attention is invited to page 2, line 24 through page 3, line 1, with respect to support for dependent claim 15 (depends

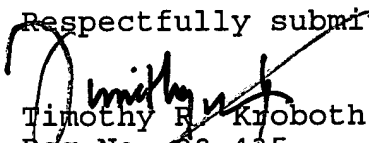
from claim 1). Amended main claims 1 and 6 are broadened by replacement of "marked with indicia" with "displaying an instructional pattern", with support at, for example, page 15, lines 23-25. Dependent claim 16 (dependent from claim 1) specifies a golf mat marked with indicia. Additionally, main claims 1 and 10 have been broadened with respect to the spaced apart relationship of vertical alignment grid lines to ball position lines.

Dependent claims 18, 20, 22 and 24 find support at page 9, lines 10-11, and at page 6, line 35. Dependent claim 21 finds support at page 3, lines 13-15. Dependent claim 25 finds support in Figs. 1 to 3, 5, and 6 of the inventive drawing. Although the subject matter of cancelled claim 5 is no longer specifically set forth in the claims, the subject matter thereof remains within the scope of the claims of the present invention.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims are patentable, and that issuance of a Notice of Allowance is in order. Should any minor matter remain, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Simultaneous with this Amendment, a Formal Drawing (3 sheets) is submitted. Indication of acceptance of the drawing by the Examiner is requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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